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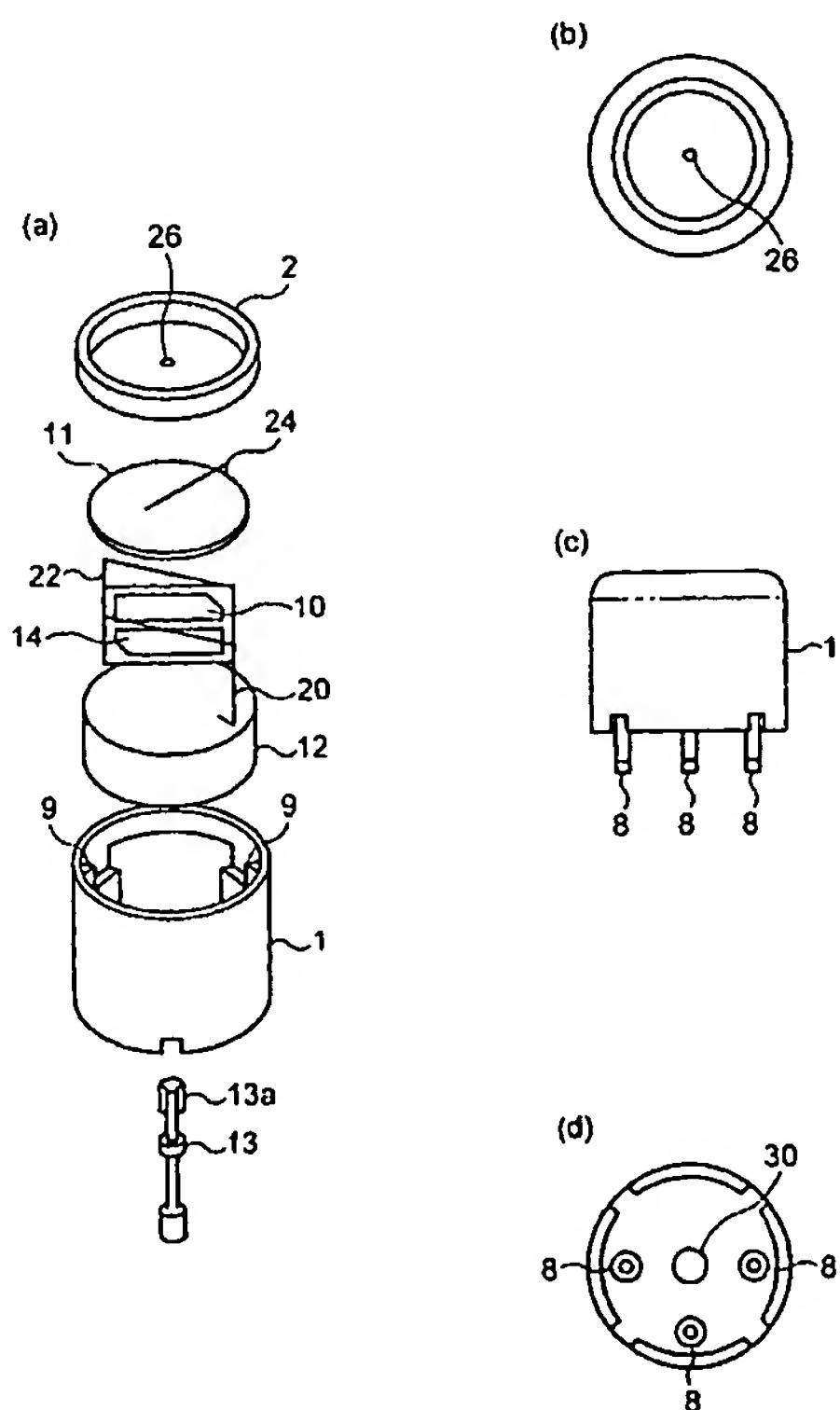
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[Continued on next page]

(54) Title: ELECTROCHEMICAL GAS SENSOR



(57) Abstract: There is described an electrochemical gas sensor comprising: (a) a sensing electrode located on the underside of cap (2); (b) a counter electrode (10); (c) a reference electrode (14); (d) a separator (11) containing an electrolyte which is located between, and in contact with, the sensing electrode, the counter electrode and the reference electrode, which separator is made of a material having a capillary action capable of drawing electrolyte in contact with the separator into the separator; (e) a reservoir comprising an electrolyte and a wicking material (12) having a capillary action that is capable of drawing up electrolyte and passing it from the reservoir to the separator (11). The capillary action of the separator (11) is greater than the capillary action of the wick material so that electrolyte is preferentially absorbed in the separator rather than the wick so that the separator maintains adequate ionic conductivity between electrodes for the sensor to operate.

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Electrochemical Gas Sensor

Field of Invention

The present invention relates to electrochemical gas sensors; the term "gas" used in the
5 present specification is intended to cover both gases and vapours.

Background Art

Electrochemical gas sensors are well known for sensing the presence of a variety of gases.
Typically, such electrochemical gas sensors comprise a sensing electrode at which the gas
10 concerned is oxidised or reduced, and a counter electrode. The sensing and counter
electrodes are separated by a porous body containing an electrolyte. Such sensors also
contain a mechanism for limiting the access of gas to the sensing electrodes so that the
amount of gas reaching the sensing electrode is proportional to the amount of gas in the
atmosphere being sensed. Such gas is oxidised or reduced on the sensing electrode
15 causing a current to flow in an external electrical circuit. The current flowing through
that circuit is proportional to the amount of gas oxidised or reduced at the sensing
electrode, which in turn is directly proportional to the amount of gas in the external
atmosphere being monitored. Thus, the current provides a direct measure of the amount
of gas in the atmosphere being monitored by the sensor.

20

In addition to a sensing and counter electrode, the sensor may include a reference
electrode, through which no current flows. The reference electrode holds the potential of
the sensing electrode within a fixed potential range, thereby improving the accuracy of
the sensor.

25

Electrolyte can evaporate through the sensing electrode, thereby causing the sensor to dry
out and cease operating. Accordingly, it has been suggested (see GB 2094005) to provide
a reservoir of electrolyte and a wick one end of which is in contact with the reservoir and
the other end is in contact with the separator between the sensing and the counter
30 electrodes. The wick draws electrolyte from the reservoir into the separator when the
separator is dry and so prevents the sensor from drying out completely. The above Patent
suggests making the wick and separator from either borosilicate glass fibre filter mats or
polyester fibre.

35 A further problem encountered with electrochemical gas sensors using ionically

conductive electrolytes, such as acidic electrolytes, for example sulphuric acid, is that the electrolyte can absorb and lose water, depending upon external environmental conditions such as humidity and temperature. Indeed, at high humidities, the volume of the electrolyte can be so great that it causes the sensor to leak. Therefore account needs
5 to be taken, in the sensor design, of the maximum possible increase in volume for electrolyte expansion, to hence prevent leakage of electrolyte from the sensor. Accordingly a large proportion of the sensor is taken up in the form of an electrolyte reservoir.

10 **Disclosure of the Invention**

According to a first aspect of the present invention, there is provided an electrochemical gas sensor comprising:

- (a) a sensing electrode;
- (b) a counter electrode;
- 15 (c) a separator containing an electrolyte which is located between, and in contact with, the sensing electrode and the counter electrode, which separator is made of a material having a capillary action capable of drawing electrolyte in contact with the separator into the separator;
- (d) a reservoir comprising an electrolyte and a wicking material having a capillary action that is capable of drawing up electrolyte and passing it
20 from the reservoir to the separator;

The improvement lies in making the capillary action of the separator stronger than the corresponding capillary action of the wick material.

25

In accordance with the invention, the greater capillary action of the separator over the wick will mean that, when the amount of electrolyte in the sensor has fallen to a low level or if for any reason, e.g. the orientation of the sensor, the base of the wick is not in contact with any electrolyte, the wick will not pull electrolyte from the separator (or at least
30 would not pull electrolyte to the same extent that it would if the separator and the wick material had the same capillary action). Thus the separator will preferentially retain electrolyte as against the wick material and the sensor will continue to maintain adequate ionic conductivity between electrodes to operate. In addition, if the separator becomes oversaturated with electrolyte, e.g. because the electrolyte has absorbed excessive water

because of the high relative humidity in the atmosphere being monitored, the wick still has sufficiently great capillary action to drain the separator.

The relative volume of the wick as compared to the volume of the separator is
5 preferably made as great as possible. As the electrolyte is preferentially retained within the separator, rather than throughout the sensor, good ionic conductivity is retained between the electrodes with the minimal amount of electrolyte. The sensor therefore exhibits good performance in low humidity environments. Traditionally this has been achieved via the use of larger volumes of electrolyte. The invention therefore
10 permits a reduction in sensor size as less electrolyte is needed to keep the sensor operational and hence less reservoir space is now needed to accommodate any increase in electrolyte volume under high humidity conditions. Much greater capacity to accommodate increased electrolyte volume in high humidity environments is provided, at the same sensor size. The ability of the sensor to tolerate high relative
15 humidity without leaking due to pressure build-up within the sensor, caused by water absorption, is thus much improved for a given size of sensor.

Both the separator and the wick will generally be made of a mat of hydrophilic fibres (although other bodies having a capillary action may be used) and the wick and the
20 separator may be made of the same or different materials. If made of the same materials, the increased capillary action of the separator can be achieved by suitably adjusting the space in between the fibres in the separator and the wick. The differential size of the gaps between the fibres in the separator and the wick will generally be achieved by making the separator from finer fibres than the wick. It is also possible to achieve increased wicking
25 action by compressing the separator to maximise the capillary action of the separator fibres but such an arrangement is difficult to achieve on a uniform and consistent basis and accordingly it is preferable to make the separator out of finer filaments than the wick if they are both made out of the same basic fibre material. As well as fibrous materials,
both the separator and wick can also be made of other materials having similar
30 effective pore sizes, or a similar ratio of effective pore size between the separator and the wick. Cast, sintered, moulded or compressed polymer, metallic or ceramic materials can be used that contain the desired effective pore size and that are inert to the electrolyte and that possess appropriate capillary action for the electrolyte. Certain materials that are inherently hydrophobic, especially polymer materials, may require

further treatment, e.g. by corona or plasma discharge, to make them suitably hydrophilic. Where highly reactive electrolyte is used in a sensor, the range of separator and wick materials is limited and they tend to be more expensive and so less desirable. Consideration also needs to be taken of both the rigidity and resilience of
5 the separator and wick materials. The higher the rigidity and lower the resilience then the tighter the dimensional tolerance required in the sensor manufacture. The use of pre-shaped separator and wick components that can be inserted into a sensor without additional manipulation during manufacture is especially advantageous economically
10 in high volume sensor manufacture. Indeed the use of such pre-shaped separator and wick components is advantageous whether or not the differential capillary action between the separator and the wick, as described above, is used in the sensor.

The capillary action of a material can be measured easily by placing the material in electrolyte and measuring the height that the electrolyte will rise in the material. It is
15 important to conduct this test with the material in the same orientation that electrolyte is drawn through the material in the sensor itself. The wick material in particular may well have a different capillary action in one direction than in a different direction.

Both the separator and the wick material should have a substantial capillary action but the
20 height of the electrolyte in the above test should preferably be at least 25% higher for the separator than for the wick material, more preferably at least 50% greater. If the separator and the wick material have the same basic composition, it is preferred that the diameter of the pores in the wick is at least 1.5 times greater than, e.g. more than twice, the pore diameter in the separator.

25

Another important preferred feature of the present invention is that the wick should extend over substantially the whole of the volume of the reservoir so that it is still in contact with electrolyte irrespective of the orientation of the sensor.

30 Other aspects of the present invention are defined in the accompanying claims.

Brief Description of the Drawings

They will now be described, by way of example only a gas sensor in accordance with the present invention by reference to the accompanying drawings in which:

Figure 1 is a plan view of the separator for use in a sensor of the present invention;

Figure 2 is a plan view of the wick for use in a sensor of the present invention;

Figure 3 is an exploded view of a sensor of the present invention;

5 Figure 4 is an exploded view of another sensor of the present invention;

Figure 5 is an exploded view of a third sensor of the present invention; and

Figure 6 is a plan and sectional view of a wicking body for use in a sensor of the present invention;

10 **Detailed Description of the Preferred Embodiment**

Referring initially to Figure 3, the sensor, which is designed to detect carbon monoxide, has a rigid moulded plastic housing 1, the bottom of which includes (as is well known) several brass contact pins 8 extending through the housing wall for providing connection 15 to an external circuit. The pins may be insert moulded into the base of the housing during the moulding of the housing. Since the arrangement of the contacts is well known and is not relevant to the present invention, it will not be described further. Current collector wires 20, 22, 24 are welded to the contact pins on the inside of the housing. The bottom of the wires and the contact pins are isolated by applying a potting compound, e.g. epoxy 20 resin, to them so that they do not come into contact with the acidic electrolyte, which corrodes the pins. Although the wires are made of platinum and do not themselves corrode in the electrolyte, it is important that the base of each wire is also isolated to prevent the electrolyte seeping along the wires to the pins. Further details of the method of applying the potting compound are given later.

25

A strip 12 (see Figure 2) of material formed as a mat of unbound borosilicate glass fibres (BS2000 glass fibre having a mean pore size of 4.8 µm) is wound up to form a helix (see Figure 3) which is placed within the housing. The majority of the fibres in the mat extend across the width of the strip, which means that they extend vertically when rolled up into 30 the helix shown in Figure 3.

A counter electrode 10 and a reference electrode 14 are placed on the helically wound strip 12. Each electrode is formed by bonding a mixture of polytetrafluoroethylene (PTFE) and powdered platinum (platinum black) onto a microporous PTFE backing layer 35 (such electrodes and their method of manufacture are well-known). The two electrodes

could be provided on a common PTFE layer instead of on separate layers, as shown. Reference and counter electrode wires 20 and 22 are bent over so that they are in electrical contact with the upper sides of the two electrodes, which is the side coated with platinum black, to provide electrical contact between the electrodes and the pins 8. Other catalyst materials may be used (depending on the nature of the gas being detected); such catalysts will generally be noble metals or alloys or mixtures thereof.

A separator 11 (see Figure 1) is placed on top of the reference and counter electrodes and associated wires 20 and 22. The separator is a mat made of unbound borosilicate glass fibres (e.g. such as that supplied by Whatman International Limited, grade GF/A and having a mean pore size of 1.9μ); the separator has a diameter that is approximately the same as the diameter of the housing.

A top cap 2 made of the same material as the housing is the last component of the sensor. It has a sensing (or working) electrode (not shown) welded to its underside. The construction of the sensing electrode is the same as that of the reference/counter electrodes described above but the electrochemically active platinum layer is located on the underneath of the PTFE layer, i.e. it faces the separator. A wire 24 is in electrical contact with the underside of the sensing electrode.

20

The top cap 2 also includes a hole 26 that allows gas from the atmosphere being monitored to enter the sensor. The top cap 2 is welded onto the housing 1 to form a liquid-tight seal. The thickness of the internal components of the sensor is greater than the height of the housing 1 so that all the components are compressed when the top cap is welded in place. This keeps the components in tight engagement with each other and prevents them slipping around within the housing. The helically wound strip 12 is especially important to achieve this compression. As mentioned above, the majority of the fibres in the strip 12 run across the width of the strip shown in Figure 2, which means that they extend from top to bottom of the helical winding. When the cap is fitted these fibres can bow, thereby allowing room for other components of the sensor. Because the fibres are resilient, they also keep the other components compressed within the housing for the lifetime of the sensor.

35 The base of the housing includes a hole 30 (see Figure 3d) with inwardly tapering side walls. After the cap has been fixed to the housing, electrolyte is fed into the bottom of the

sensor. The hole 30 is closed by fusing a plug 13a with a taper corresponding to that of the hole 30 in place after the electrolyte has been injected. The plug 13a is formed in the centre of a sprue 13 and closure is achieved by inserting the plug end 13a into the hole and fusing it in place, e.g. by heat. The sprue 13 is then snapped off.

5

The electrolyte is wicked up the helically wound strip 12. Because the reference and counter electrodes 10, 14 are smaller than both the separator 11 and the helically wound strip 12, the outer edge portions of the separator 11 and the helically wound strip 12 are in direct contact with each other and so electrolyte is wicked up by the strip 12 into the 10 separator around the edges of the electrodes 10 and 14 and is drawn by capillary action throughout the separator 11, thereby maintaining the electrochemically active layers of the electrodes in contact with the electrolyte. Such electrolyte may, for instance, be concentrated sulphuric acid (5 molar), which absorbs moisture, thereby increasing the quantity of liquid in the sensing electrode 11. The fibres of the separator 11 are finer than 15 those of the strip 12 and so the spacing between the fibres in the separator is narrower than the fibres of the strip 12 and so the separator exerts a stronger capillary effect than the strip. As the electrolyte is preferentially retained within the separator, rather than throughout the sensor, good ionic conductivity is maintained between the electrodes with the minimal amount of electrolyte. The capillary action of the wick although 20 lower than that of the separator is still sufficiently high that it can efficiently drain excess electrolyte from the separator when it has built by the effect of water absorption in high humidity environments. The sensor needs less electrolyte to keep it working than prior art sensors since the electrolyte preferentially migrates to the separator due to its high capillarity according to the present invention. Thus the 25 amount of electrolyte filled into the sensor is generally lower than in prior art sensors and so the capacity of the sensor to absorb water is greatly increased (for a given size of sensor) before hydraulic pressure is built up against the porous PTFE sensing electrode, which is sealed into the cap. This is highly beneficial since that pressure build-up can cause the sensing electrode to burst and electrolyte to leak from the 30 sensor.

As described above, the wires 20, 22 and 24 are welded to their respective contact pins 8 and encapsulated in potting compound. Prior to the addition of the potting compound, the wires are held in separate grooves 9 in the side wall of the housing 1; the grooves have a

width of 0.2 - 1.2 mm, e.g. 0.4 - 0.9 mm and preferably about 0.8 mm, which means that when the liquid potting compound is added to the housing, it is drawn up the grove by capillary action and then sets, thereby also encapsulating the ends of the wires attached to the pins. Not only does such an arrangement encapsulate the lower ends of the wires
5 (thereby making it less likely that electrolyte will reach the pins 8) but also the grooves 9 act as a "jig" for holding the wires during the operation of welding the wires to the pins. The grooves also keep the wires in place against the housing wall while the other components are inserted into the housing and so facilitate such insertion and also facilitate the subsequent bending over of the wires to contact the relevant electrode. Therefore the
10 grooves allow increased automation of the manufacture of the cells.

- The potting compound used is preferably an epoxy/amino resin, e.g. Resin DP270 (obtainable from 3M Adhesives Division of 3M Center, Building 220-7E-05, St Paul, MN, United States of America), which is a two part formulation which must be mixed
15 prior to use. Obviously, the viscosity of the resin must be such that it can be drawn up the grooves; if it is too viscous at room temperature, the housing and the potting compound may be heated, e.g. to 80-100°C. Elevated temperature also accelerates curing, which occurs in about 30 minutes at 100°C.
20 It is not desirable that the potting compound should extend to the top of the housing wall and so, about to thirds of the height of the wall, the width of the grooves 9 is increased so that it is no longer able to exert a capillary force on the potting compound and so the potting compound does not rise above the narrow section of the groove.
25 The operation of the sensor will be briefly described for a carbon monoxide sensor but the present invention is applicable to sensors for detecting other gases.

Carbon monoxide migrates through the hole 26 in the top cap 1 at a rate proportional to the concentration of that gas in the atmosphere being monitored. It migrates through the
30 pores of the PTFE layer of the sensing electrode and is oxidised at the platinum catalyst of the sensing electrode. This causes a current to flow through an external circuit of known design and across the electrolyte in the separator; the magnitude of the current depends on the amount of carbon monoxide oxidised and that in turn depends on the amount of carbon monoxide in the atmosphere being monitored. Thus the magnitude of
35 the current in the external circuit gives a measure of the amount of carbon monoxide in

the atmosphere.

The sensor of Figure 4 is identical to that of Figure 3 except that the reference electrode 14 and the counter electrode 12 are not co-planar but are instead separated by a separator 5 11' of identical composition to separator 11. Both electrodes are of smaller area than the separators 11 and 11' and so electrolyte is fed from the reservoir around the outside of the electrodes by capillary action of the strip 12 into (or out of) the separators 11 and 11' and is evenly distributed within the separators again by the capillary action of the separators.

10 The sensor of Figure 5 is identical to that of Figure 3 except that no reference electrode is provided.

As shown in Figure 6, the strip 12 can be replaced by a body 50 having capillary pores that wick electrolyte to the separator(s). As shown, the body is a sinter of polyethylene 15 that has been plasma treated to make it hydrophobic but other materials can be used, as discussed above. The body has a central void 52 to allow electrolyte to be injected quickly into the sensor during manufacture; the electrolyte will over time be absorbed by the body 20 and the separator(s) 11 and 11'. The body has cutouts 54 to accommodate the pins 8 and the associated current collector wires. The shape of the body is such that it fills 20 the whole of the electrolyte reservoir in the sensor.

Claims

1. An electrochemical gas sensor comprising:
 - (a) a sensing electrode;
 - (b) a counter electrode;
 - (c) a separator containing an electrolyte which is located between, and in contact with, the sensing electrode and the counter electrode, which separator is made of a material having a capillary action capable of drawing electrolyte in contact with the separator into the separator;
 - (d) a reservoir comprising an electrolyte and a wicking material having a capillary action that is capable of drawing up electrolyte and passing it from the reservoir to the separator;
characterised in that the capillary action of the separator is greater than the capillary action of the wick material.
- 15 2. A sensor as claimed in claim 1 wherein the wick material of the reservoir is in physical contact with the separator.
3. A sensor as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the separator and the wick are each made of a mat of fibres and the fibres of the separator are finer than the fibres of the wick.
- 20 4. A sensor as claimed in claim 1 or 2 wherein the separator and the wick are each made of a pre-shaped (e.g. moulded, sintered or cast) porous material
- 25 5. A sensor as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 4, wherein the area of the counter electrode is smaller than that of the separator whereby electrolyte can pass from the reservoir to the separator around the edges of the counter electrode.
- 30 6. A sensor as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 5 that also includes a reference electrode.
7. A sensor as claimed in claim 6, wherein the reference electrode is located alongside the counter electrode and is in contact with the separator separating the sensing electrode from the counter electrode.
- 35

8. A sensor as claimed in claim 7, wherein the aggregate of the area of the counter electrode and the area of the reference electrode is smaller than the area of the separator whereby electrolyte can pass from the reservoir to the separator around the edges of the counter electrode and the reference electrode.
5
9. A sensor as claimed in claim 6, wherein the reference electrode is separated from the counter electrode by a further separator.
10. A sensor as claimed in claim 9, wherein the area of the counter electrode and the area of the reference electrode are each smaller than the area of the separator whereby electrolyte can pass from the reservoir to each of the separators around the edges of the counter electrode and the reference electrode.
10
11. A sensor as claimed in any one of claims 1 to 10 that includes a housing and wherein the electrodes are urged together within the housing by the resilience of the wick material of the reservoir.
15
12. A method of manufacturing an electrochemical gas sensor that comprises a housing,
20 a sensing electrode and a reference electrode within the housing,
a pair of contact pins each associated with a respective sensing or counter electrode, which pins extend through the housing to provide contacts on the inside and the outside of the housing and
25 a wire that extends from each electrode to its respective contact pin to provide electrical contact between each electrode and its respective contact pin,
wherein the method comprises:
30 connecting each wire to its respective contact pin, and applying a potting compound to isolate the contact pins from the rest of the interior of the housing,
characterised in that each wire is held in a groove within the housing while the potting compound is applied, the width of the groove being such that the potting compound is drawn up the groove by capillary action to isolate the
35 end portion of each wire connected to its contact pin.

13. A method as claimed in claim 12, wherein the width of each groove is 0.4 to 1.2 mm.

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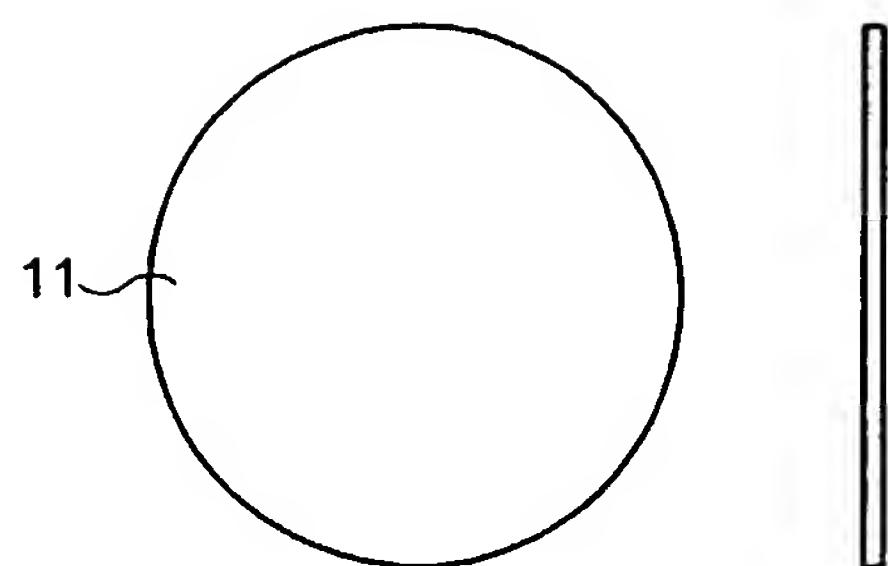


FIG. 1

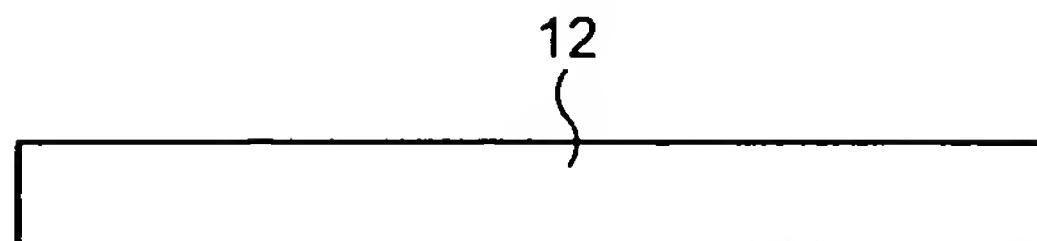


FIG. 2

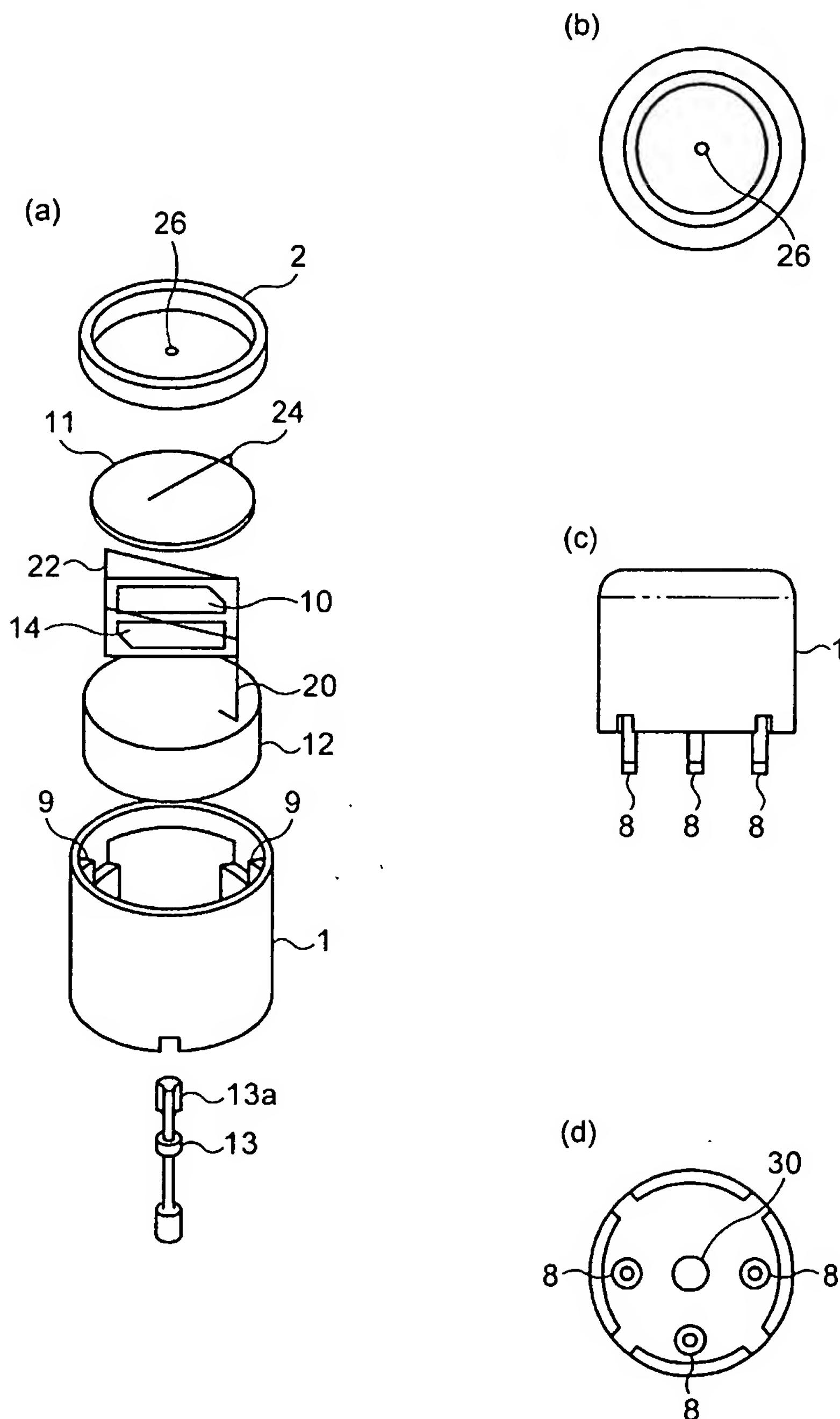


FIG. 3

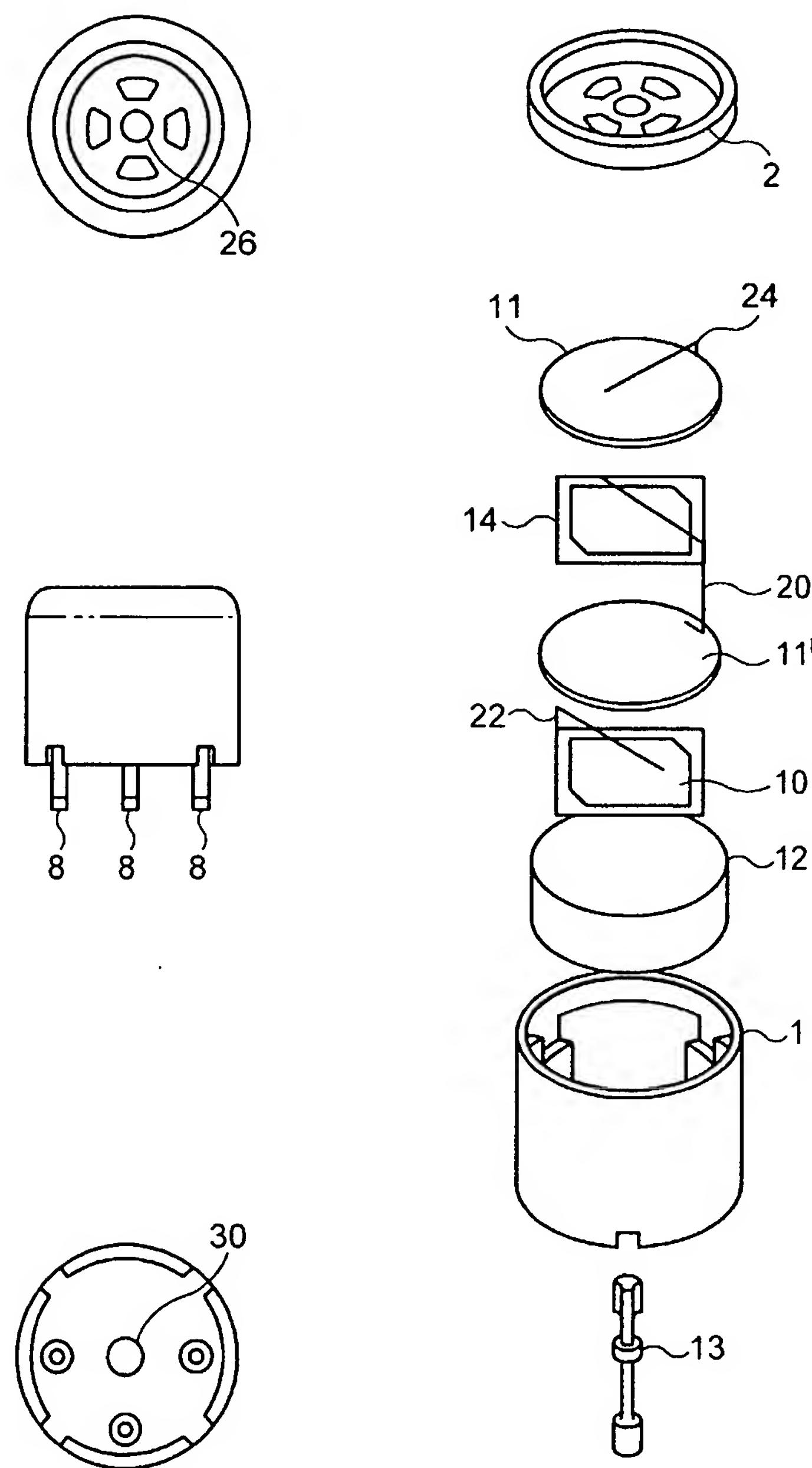


FIG. 4

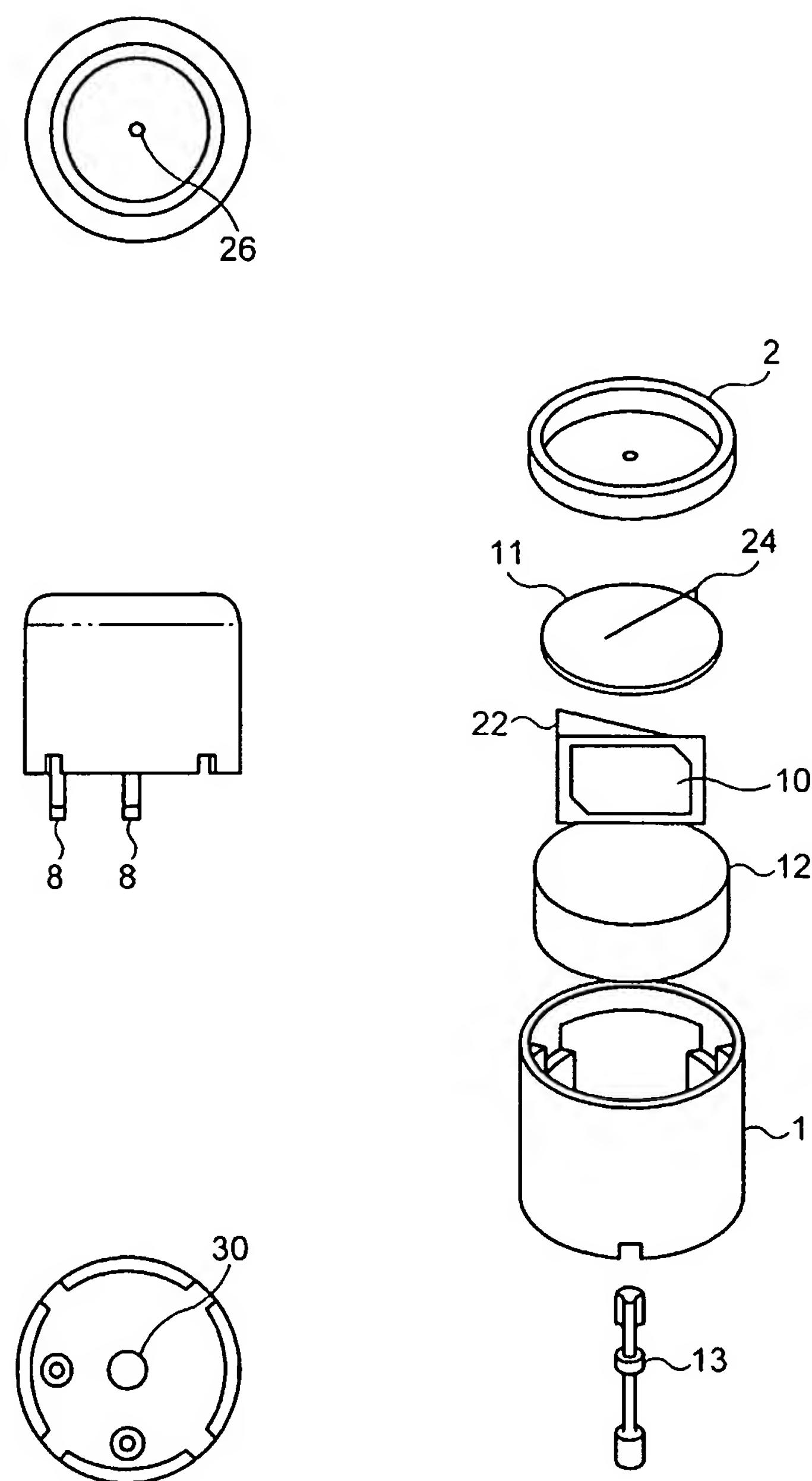


FIG. 5

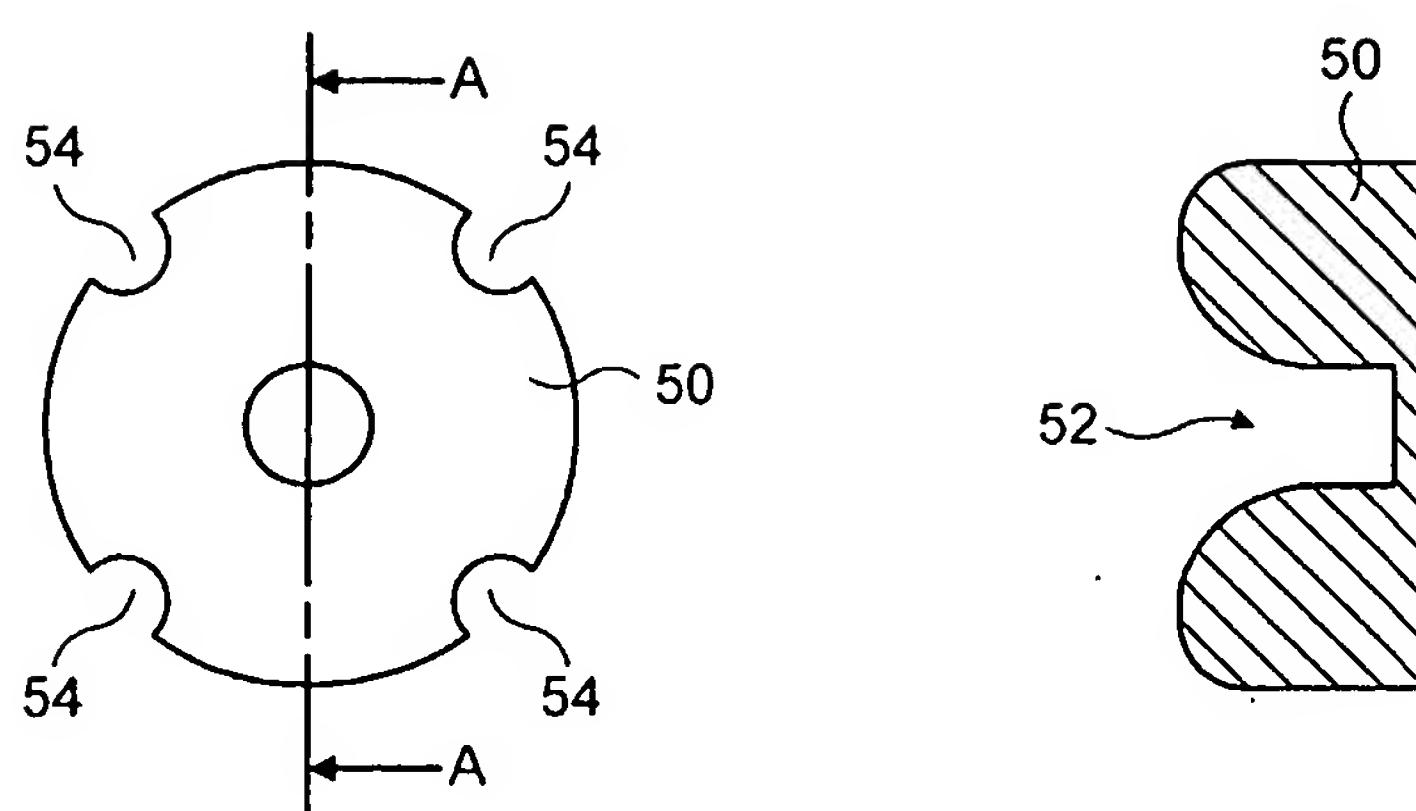


FIG. 6

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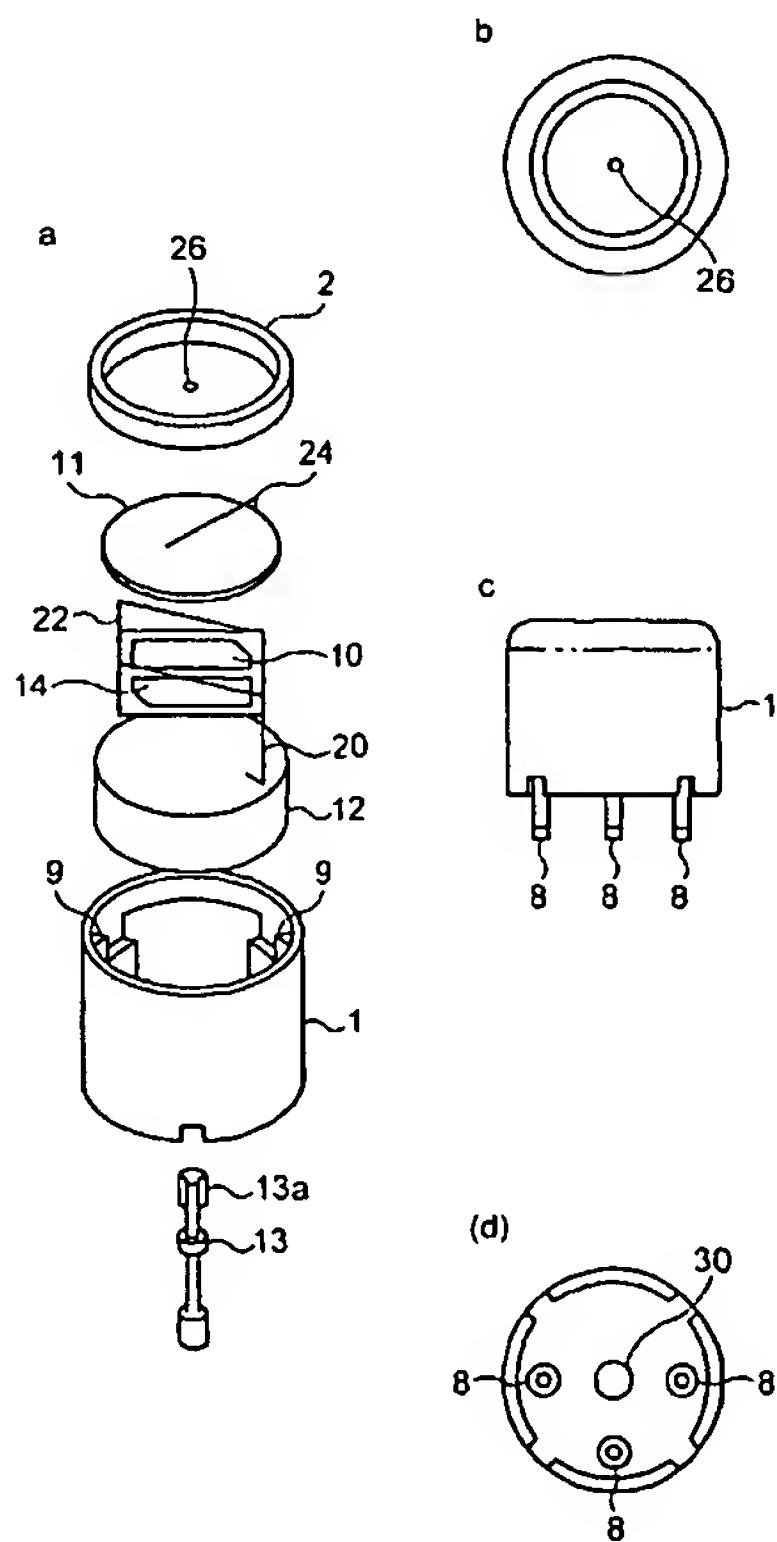
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(54) Title: ELECTROCHEMICAL GAS SENSOR



(57) Abstract: An electrochemical gas sensor comprising: (a) a sensing electrode located on the underside of cap (2); (b) a counter electrode (10); (c) a reference electrode (14); (d) a separator (11) containing an electrolyte which is located between, and in contact with, the sensing electrode, the counter electrode and the reference electrode, which separator is made of a material having a capillary action capable of drawing electrolyte in contact with the separator into the separator; (e) a reservoir comprising an electrolyte and a wicking material (12) having a capillary action that is capable of drawing up electrolyte and passing it from the reservoir to the separator (11). The capillary action of the separator (11) is greater than the capillary action of the wick material so that electrolyte is preferentially absorbed in the separator rather than the wick so that the separator maintains adequate ionic conductivity between electrodes for the sensor to operate.

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Electronic data base consulted during the International search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

WPI Data, PAJ, EPO-Internal

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 4 406 770 A (CHAN YAT S ET AL) 27 September 1983 (1983-09-27) cited in the application abstract; figure 1 column 3, line 63 -column 5, line 37 column 8, line 64 -column 9, line 55 ---	1-11
Y	DE 197 55 506 A (DRAEGER SICHERHEITSTECH GMBH) 24 June 1999 (1999-06-24) abstract; claims 1-11; figure 1 column 2, line 1 -column 3, line 5 ---	1-11
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	-/-	

 Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C. Patent family members are listed in annex..

* Special categories of cited documents :

- *'A' document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- *'E' earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- *'L' document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- *'O' document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- *'P' document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

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*& document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the International search 20 March 2003	Date of mailing of the International search report 01.04.03
Name and mailing address of the ISA European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2 NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl, Fax (+31-70) 340-3016	Authorized officer Klein, M-O

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

PCT/GB 02/00967

C.(Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	EP 0 496 527 A (CITY TECH) 29 July 1992 (1992-07-29) abstract; figure 1A page 4 ---	1-11
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A	EP 0 298 570 A (BACHARACH INC) 11 January 1989 (1989-01-11) abstract; figure 6 column 4, line 34-49 column 6, line 4 -column 8, line 54 ---	1-11
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A	US 5 346 606 A (THOENI STEWART ET AL) 13 September 1994 (1994-09-13) the whole document ---	1-11
A	GB 2 292 804 A (TRANSDUCER RESEARCH INC) 6 March 1996 (1996-03-06) abstract ---	1-11
X	US 4 766 346 A (WEISS WERNER ET AL) 23 August 1988 (1988-08-23) the whole document ---	12,13
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 016, no. 096 (P-1322), 10 March 1992 (1992-03-10) & JP 03 274026 A (SEIKO EPSON CORP), 5 December 1991 (1991-12-05) abstract ---	12,13
X	US 4 673 455 A (MAY MICHAEL G) 16 June 1987 (1987-06-16) abstract; figure 1 column 1-2 ---	12,13
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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International application No.
PCT/GB 02/00967

Box I Observations where certain claims were found unsearchable (Continuation of item 1 of first sheet)

This International Search Report has not been established in respect of certain claims under Article 17(2)(a) for the following reasons:

1. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to subject matter not required to be searched by this Authority, namely:

2. Claims Nos.:
because they relate to parts of the International Application that do not comply with the prescribed requirements to such an extent that no meaningful International Search can be carried out, specifically:

3. Claims Nos.:
because they are dependent claims and are not drafted in accordance with the second and third sentences of Rule 6.4(a).

Box II Observations where unity of invention is lacking (Continuation of item 2 of first sheet)

This International Searching Authority found multiple inventions in this international application, as follows:

see additional sheet

1. As all required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers all searchable claims.

2. As all searchable claims could be searched without effort justifying an additional fee, this Authority did not invite payment of any additional fee.

3. As only some of the required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant, this International Search Report covers only those claims for which fees were paid, specifically claims Nos.:

4. No required additional search fees were timely paid by the applicant. Consequently, this International Search Report is restricted to the invention first mentioned in the claims; it is covered by claims Nos.:

Remark on Protest

- The additional search fees were accompanied by the applicant's protest.
- No protest accompanied the payment of additional search fees.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No. PCT/GB 02 00967

FURTHER INFORMATION CONTINUED FROM PCT/ISA/ 210

This International Searching Authority found multiple (groups of) inventions in this international application, as follows:

1. Claims: 1-11

electrochemical gas sensor according to claim 1 with the characterizing feature that the capillary action of the separator is greater than the capillary action of the wicking material

2. Claims: 12,13

method of manufacturing an electrochemical gas sensor according to claim 12 where each wire is held in a groove within the housing while the potting compound is applied, the width of the groove being such that the potting compound is drawn up the groove by capillary action to isolate the end portion of each wire connected to its contact pin.

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Information on patent family members

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